

INDIANA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTING
PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION

MINUTES

March 21, 2011 6pm
BEDFORD FD
1900 "H" STREET
BEDFORD IN 47421
812-275-4544

A Meeting called to order at 6:20am

B. Roll Call

Present

Jeff Hayes, Chair
Jerry Nulliner
James Bennett
James Greeson
Burke Jones
Greg Wyant

Absent

Jack Kerney Vice-Chair
Candice Ashby, Secretary
Thomas Hanify
Ab Crosby

C. Approval of January 24th minutes as submitted.

Jeff Hayes made a motion to correct errors on page 6 and 8. James Greeson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

D. Certifications report, Rick Archer:

We have issued 2361 certifications since January 24 meeting. There has been over 4500 fire certifications issued so far this year. I would also like to talk about the on-line certification. We have been testing this on the EMS side. To date, this has been very successful. Starting April 1st, this hopefully will be up and running. When we get everything running smooth, we will include the fire instructor certifications.

On-line testing: we are still working on pieces of this. We are still working on importing test questions from the LXR system into the Acadis program. When we get this ready, we will Beta test the program. Technical capabilities will be ready June 1, as far as location, availability and cost, this is still under discussion.

The cost up to this time has been absorbed by, the state. The additional cost would be for proctor cost. This person should be someone that has no vested interest in the results of the exam.

James Bennett explained that he, John Buckman and the Marshal met with Tim Deckard, IVFA and have agreed to postpone the effective date until after January 1st 2012. We are still going to continue with Beta testing and have everything ready, but we will not implement this until 2012. We do realize that we are going to need more than 26 sites throughout the state for testing.

There has been no discussion for a verbal exam. This would cost more and this would be against the board rules.

John Buckman spoke about Ivan Nevil's passing. He was Training Academy Administrator for over 15 years and he was the State Fire Marshal for a short time. We will be sending a card to his wife Joyce, and if anyone wants to put comments in this card, a funny story or something memorable you would like to mention, send me or Barb Goble a note and we will make sure it gets into the card. At this time I would like a moment of silence in honor of Ivan.

E Variance requests:

Rick Schnautz requested a variance for the following 17 year olds to be allowed to take the written/practical skill exam for Firefighter I/II.

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Jonathan Gears | 2. Dylan Schmitt | 3. Jordan Kuester |
| 4. Hunter Blackford | 5. Zachary Virgin | 6. Derek Voegel |

Staff recommends approval with the understanding that the students are 17 at the time of testing ,that 100% of practical skills have been successfully completed and certification will not be issued until their 18 birthday.

Jerry Nulliner made a motion to approve. James Greeson seconded. Motion passed. Jeff Hayes stated for clarification purposes, that if he applied for this class last year he has the choice of the old practicals or the new practicals for this course.

7. Ronald Owens requested a variance for Hazardous Material Technician based on training in Kentucky.

Staff recommends denial. The training is based on Kentucky OSHA, and consists of a 28 hours class. It was a class in 1999 and we have no continuing education. He has not met the prerequisites of Hazmat Awareness /Operations.

Burke Jones made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Jerry Nulliner seconded. Motion passed. There is simply not enough information to approve the request.

8. David Cherrone requested a variance for Instructor II/III. His lapsed Nov 2010 and he would like it reinstated. He has the required hours of continued education.

Staff recommends denial. As an instructor, it is his responsibility to be aware of his renewal time frame and make sure his certification does not expire.

James Greeson made a motion to approve staff recommendation. James Bennett seconded. Motion passed. Greg Wyant stated that this expired less than 4 months ago, and in October the board approved the same issue that was 6 months out. The board decided that they would hold off on this issue until Feb. 2010 when the IVFA sent out a notice in their paper, that we would no longer approve this issue.

Comment from guest: go ahead and accept this tonight and then from this point forward, this would no longer be allowed. James Greeson stated that at some point we simply have to stop making allowances for this.

James Greeson stated that until we can find a way to notify people that they are expiring, we should authorize this. The board will find a way to send notification about expiration that would not cost any money.

John Buckman stated that we have to stop this. It is costing too much money. You do not get notification that your driver's license is expiring.

Larry Southerland stated IRS does not notify you it is time to file taxes, and this is enough. Right is right and this is not right to continue to do this.

Motion to approve staff recommendation to deny passed.

9. John Shafer and 10. Jon Shackelford requested a variance for Vehicle/Machinery Operations. They were part of the committee that helped create the curriculum and conduct practical skills with the contractor Spec Rescue Inc.

Staff recommends approval for the practical skills, but asks that the students be required to pass the written exam.

Greg Wyant requested that #15 Brian Snow be moved to this issue, because they are the same issue. Greg Wyant observed that the skills are due to expire in 7 days. Greg Wyant made a motion to approve the staff recommendation. Burke Jones seconded. Motion passed. Greg Wyant then made a motion to extend the validity of the practical skills another 180 days, and that the written exam must be completed by June 1, 2011. Burke Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed.

11. Daniel Ninde 12. Shaun Farris 13. Eric Brown
14. Jason Chafin

Requested a variance for Hazmat Technician. They took the test on Feb 14, prior to having completed the prerequisite and would like credit for the Technician level testing.

Staff has no recommendation. Staff stated that March 15, 2010 was the deadline for these issues. At that time, staff started enforcing the board rules that state that prerequisites must be completed prior to taking the exam. Marshal Greeson noted that they had started the Hazmat Awareness and Operations prior to testing for the Technician level. They did not complete the awareness/operations prior to testing for tech. James Bennett noted that if we approve this we would be setting a precedent for future issues of this type. Jerry Nulliner made a motion to deny the request for certification for the written exam but as long as they retake the written exam prior to the 180 day expiration date on the practical skills exam they can use the completed skills. James Greeson seconded.

15. Brian Snow is requesting a variance for Vehicle/Machinery Operations. They were part of the committee that helped create the curriculum and conduct practical skills with the contractor Spec Rescue Inc.

Staff recommends approval for the practical skills, but asks that the students be required to pass the written exam.

See response for #9 and #10.

16. Janaye Day 17. Michael Disbro 18. James Mayberry

Are requesting a variance to be allowed to take the written exam for HMA/HMO; Mandatory and Firefighter I/II at Southeastern Career Center in Versailles.

Staff recommends approval with the understanding that the students are 17 at the time of testing ,that 100% of practical skills have been successfully completed and certification will not be issued until their 18 birthday.

James Bennett made a motion to approve. Jerry Nulliner seconded. Motion passed.

19. Jeff Clinger is requesting a variance for Instructor I certification. Jeff's certification lapsed because the state no longer issues the reminder letter.

Staff recommends denial. It is the responsibility of the instructor to maintain this certification and to keep it current.

Greg Wyant made a motion to approve staff recommendation. James Greeson seconded. Motion passed.

F. Request for Administrative appeal

1. James McIntosh is requesting a review of the Board's denial of his Fire Officer IV request. His request was denied at the January meeting.

Jerry Nulliner made a motion to forward this request to Judge Bippus. Burke Jones seconded. Motion passed.

G. State Fire Marshal, James Greeson

We have completed the 3 seminars around the state, and they were very well attended and next year we will build on the recommendations from this year. From the discussions during these seminars, in June or July we are putting on seminars dealing with budgets, tax rates, property taxes etc. these are educational seminars dealing with funding for fire dept. These seminars are open to anyone in the fire service. We will be getting the information out when this is going to be.

The smoke alarm for the deaf campaign has gone well, and we need to thank the fire service for installing these in the homes. We have had 1100 people apply and these

need installed. Marion County has about 100 left and we have applied again for this grant. These alarms run about \$250.00+ so this has helped a lot of people. The fire alliance started meeting last June and we meet about every other month. We look at funding for the fire service, training, health and safety, and oversight. These are the 4 issues that we are looking at right now. We have a survey that we are going to be sending out sometime in the next month. It is a little lengthy, but please take the time to fill this out if you get one of these. FDIC is this week. This is a great chance for training and meeting firefighters from around the world.

H. Training Director, James Bennett

Last Saturday I was out at the Wayne Twp FD, at the NFA class. We sponsored 2 classes out there. We had 50 register and about 25 showed up for the class, which is a shame really, because these are good classes. Week ago last Friday we had the District Training Council Chair meeting, at Pike Twp, and some pretty good ideas came out of this meeting. These were really good ideas and the group voted on what they thought were the most important issues; In order of priority:

1. Instructor Development
2. Continuing education for firefighters
3. Standardized curriculum
4. Minimum training for firefighters
5. Distance learning , webinar
6. ICS training, consider blue card training, this is an expensive training.
7. Training resources
8. Regional delivery
9. Instructor evaluation

We will start working on these issues in the priority order.

I. Fire Training Director, John Buckman

1. Testing results, adult education hours, what qualifies, see attached documentation; mandatory, all test questions have been approved by 3 Indiana instructors. The results are attached.

What we found doing this evaluation, is that we are not teaching the driver portion of this class. We have also found that if the topic is not in the book, we do not teach it. We need to stop this. The book is a teaching aid, not the whole curriculum.

Jeff Hayes asked if we could not start sending out the mandatory book like we used to. This information was in this book and it got taught. John stated that we will put this book on the web so that if you need it, it will be available again. (these are now on the web page under the firefighter and mandatory packets.

If anyone needs books to teach any class, and you get denied from the district coordinator, let John Buckman know. We will get you books. The state has spent \$150,000 for books so we will make sure you get books if you need them to teach a class. The issues with the web site as far as things on there today and not tomorrow but they will be back on there the next day, we are working on it. We do not control the web site, but they are aware of this issue and are working on it. Let me know when this happens and we will let the web master know. It is not just our agency. This is state wide. We do ask that you check you pop up blocker before you call us. For some reason, certain programs are suddenly blocking these pop ups, so try that and it does not work, call us.

David Probo talks about the FF ½ tests. The passing rate drop considerably at this point. What we have noticed on this, is that when you take the combination test, the firefighter 2 questions, are the most failed. The material is not being covered adequately during the course. We had a class of 18 failed the test, and then all 18 failed the retest. If you do not allot enough time for this combination course, you will not be able to cover all of the objectives. We suggest that from now on, you take the Firefighter I course and then test, then later take the Firefighter 2 course and then test for it. Firefighter 1 test will be 100 questions, and the firefighter 2 test will be 50 questions. The firefighter ½ tests will stay at 150 questions.

We are not teaching the students in the instructor 1 class how to register the classes or the board rules.

To analyze every test is extremely time consuming and we simply cannot do this for every test. Rick Archer explained that the new on line testing program will be able to pull this information.

Another issue for IFSAC is that in order to be proctor, lead instructor or lead evaluator you must attend a train-to-trainer on each certification. We are setting this up as a webinar. We are also looking at making this good for 2 years.

IFSAC suggested that we look into dropping part of the skills for testing for Hazardous material Operations. They stated that it was not realistic to test on every skill involved. They still have to train in all skills, just like in the firefighter I/II, but testing would be selected skills.

Tom Neal e-mail, he is wanting the board to create a Hazmat ops program to train the National Guard, to be able to do select practical skills. These guys are not firefighters and will not be using most of the skills, so they should not have to complete them.

Mara Snyder, legal counsel, recommends that each individual apply for a variance in order to request what they need. It sounds like they do not want a certification for the fire firefighters. They are asking for a special certifications tailored to what the National Guard wants to do.

The board heard the request and at this time are not moving on it.

2. Karrie Dillon, IFSAC, we have been preapproved for the HMA, HMO, Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, and Instructor I. This still has to go to their Board for formal approval on April 13-16, 2011. The inspection found a few items that we needed to correct and most of those were corrected on the spot. John Buckman stated that Steve Walters, David Probo and Karrie Dillon are responsible for the reaccreditation. They are the individuals that did 99% of the work to get this done.

a. letter of denial has been rewritten, gives directions on how to submit for retest and how to request a review of their fail scores.

J. Administrative proceedings

Nothing at this time.

K. Old business

1. Discussion and possible adoption of LSA 10-248.

There were errors on the original submission and it has been sent back for correction so the board needs to review this and vote on it again.

After a brief discussion by Board members, Marshal James Greeson made motion approve LSA Doc. #10-248, as published in the Indiana Register on July 28, 2010 as DIN 20100728-IR-655100248PRA, as amended by withdrawing the repeal of 655 IAC 1-2.1-16, 655 IAC 1-2.1-17, and 655 IAC 1-2.1-18, as amended by the changes requested by Division Chief Chad Abel in his written request presented to the Board, as amended by the proposed changes contained in the memo, dated September 27, 2010, from Mara Snyder, and as further amended by the memorandum from Mara Snyder dated March 15, 2011. The motion was seconded by Jerry Nulliner. The motion passed unanimously.

L. New business

1. Instructor recertification for retired instructors, Candace Ashby

Ms. Ashby was not present for this. The concern was that how does a retired instructor get recertification since he would not longer be affiliated. The rules states that a fire service person is a person who is an Indiana resident, or; a member of a fire dept engaged in fire education; fire suppression, fire code enforcement, teaching fire science or fire investigation.

2. James Campbell, Pike Twp; issues concerning eligibility for teaching and evaluating Public Fire and Life Safety Educator.

The problem here is that according to board rules, you must be certified as an Instructor and Public Fire and Life Safety Educator in order to be lead instructor and lead evaluator. We are not going to meet these qualifications because most involved in this certification, are civilians. Would the board support licensed teachers.

Jerry Nulliner states that a long term solution would be a board change. Short term is that they would have to file for a variance in order to teach/lead evaluate this.

3. Randy Gulley has a small group of people that would like to get the JFS I & II certification reinstated, if possible.

Mr. Gulley was not at the meeting. This will be tabled until the May 10th agenda.

M. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next meeting:

MAY 10TH 2011 6PM
CRAWFORDSVILLE FD
100 S WATERS ST
CRAWFORDSVILLE IN 47933
765-362-1277